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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

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Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 19
Human rights

1. At its 13th meeting, on 17 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 19)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 19 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the biennial programme plan under programme 19, Human rights. It was noted that plan was comprehensive and that the objectives and strategies were clear.

4. The importance of the universal realization of human rights was expressed. Priority was attached to the promotion and protection of human rights.

5. Several delegations inquired whether the document had been considered for approval by an intergovernmental body. The representative of the Secretary-General

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explained that the strategic framework had been presented to the Commission on Human Rights but no formal decision had been taken.

6. The view was expressed that the proposed strategic framework should be brought into line with the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. Other questions were raised concerning the substantial changes in the content of the overall orientation. The view was expressed that the biennial programme plan relied heavily on monitoring. It was observed that the Secretary-General's reform proposals were not legislative mandates.

7. It was noted that there was no reference made to civil society in any subprogramme. Advances in human rights global norms and instruments were noted with satisfaction.

8. Satisfaction was expressed for the structure, particularly of subprogramme 4. The view was expressed that the expected accomplishments fully met the requirements. The view was also expressed that in subprogramme 4, there existed a gap between the objective and expected accomplishments, and that more organic linkage would be necessary between those two elements.

9. Support was expressed for the establishment of a Special Procedures Branch.

10. The importance of the reform of treaty bodies and of special procedures was expressed. It was stated that reform and rationalization of the human rights treaty body system, including through the streamlining and overall improvement of human rights reporting procedures, were important and necessary to enhance and strengthen their overall effectiveness. The view was expressed that the current system put too much burden on States parties and efforts for rationalization should continue to be made through discussion among, and based on consensus of, States parties to the treaties.

11. Support was expressed for the work for the Activities and Programmes Branch, especially in the field of Advisory Services and technical cooperation. The view was expressed that expected accomplishment (a) and strategy (a) of subprogramme 3 were almost identical, and that refinement of those two elements would be necessary.

12. Respect for the sovereignty of member States was emphasized, in particular as regards the implementation of subprogramme 4.

13. The Committee stressed the need to maintain continued political will and momentum at the national, regional and international levels in order to implement the outcomes of major conferences of the United Nations, and recalled the importance of enhancing national action and international cooperation to that end.

14. The Committee emphasized that all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should become involved in the follow-up to the major conferences and requested the specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust, within their respective mandates, their activities, programmes and medium-term and long-term strategies to take into account the follow-up to those conferences.

15. The Committee also emphasized the critical importance of placing the outcome of all major conferences on an equal footing with that of previous United Nations world conferences in the economic, human rights and social fields.

16. The Committee noted with deep concern that the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for 2003 (E/CN.4/2003/111) and 2004 (E/CN.4/2004/L.11/Add.6, annex I), respectively, concerning the geographical composition and the functions of the Office staff clearly reflected that one region was unequivocably overrepresented in staff composition and that the imbalance had worsened. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures and that particular attention be paid to recruiting personnel from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States, in particular from developing countries, for the existing vacancies and for additional posts in the Office of the High Commissioner so as to ensure an equitable geographical distribution, giving particular priority to recruitment for high-level and Professional posts and to the recruitment of women.

17. The following amendments were proposed to programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 19.1

In the second sentence, delete the words: "as well as the proposals of the Secretary-General for the strengthening of the United Nations (see A/57/387 and Corr.1) and General Assembly resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002".

Paragraph 19.3

Revise the third sentence to read: "Emphasis will be placed on its objective to promote international cooperation for human rights".

In the fourth sentence:

(a) Delete the words "responding to the needs of the vulnerable for protection";

(b) Replace the words "other pertinent United Nations organs" with the words "the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly".

Paragraph 19.4

In the second sentence:

(a) Replace the words "as well as" with the word "including";

(b) Delete the words "by stimulating and coordinating action across the whole United Nations system".

In the third sentence, delete the words "in accordance with the Secretary-General's reform report of 2002".

Subprogramme 1

A. Right to development, research and analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishment (a) with the following accomplishment: "Strengthened support to human rights bodies and organs to incorporate right to development in their human rights activities".

Replace accomplishment (a) with the following accomplishment: "Wider integration and/or inclusion of the promotion and protection of the right to development aimed at the full realization of the right to development, in particular across human rights programmes and the relevant programmes of work of the United Nations departments and/or offices and specialized agencies and of major international organizations and forums related to this issue".

Replace accomplishment (b) with the following accomplishment: "Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of the right to development".

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicator (a) (i).

Replace indicator (a) (ii) with the following indicator: "An increase in the activities undertaken by the human rights bodies and organs that include right to development issues".

Replace indicators (a) (i), (a) (ii) and (b) with paragraphs 19.7 (a), 19.7 (b) and 19.7 (c), respectively. of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, that is:

(a) (i) The extent to which the right to development had been included in the work programmes of the departments and offices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, providing compiled examples of concrete steps in that regard

(a) (ii) The extent to which the mandates relevant to the right to development given to the Secretariat including the holding of seminars and workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights contained in resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolutions 55/2 and 56/95 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration and on the follow-up to its outcome, as well as in resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights had been fulfilled

(b) The extent to which the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner contributed to increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding in order to advance the full realization of the right to development, in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development

Strategy

Paragraph 19.6

In the chapeau, replace the words "mindful of human rights norms and the decisions of policy-making organs" with the words "in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development (General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex) and subsequent mandates and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, with the aim to facilitate action to be taken by relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including treaty bodies, international development and financial institutions and non-governmental organizations".

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "Placing the right to development at the centre of United Nations activities in the human rights area".

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "Placing the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of fundamental human rights, ensuring the realization of the right to development across the human rights programme and by specialized agencies and United Nations treaty bodies".

Delete subparagraphs (c) and (d) and renumber the subsequent subparagraph accordingly.

Add a new subparagraph (d) to read: "Promote national implementation of the right to development through coordination with State-appointed officials".

Add a new subparagraph (e) to read: "Identifying obstacles at the national and international levels for the implementation of the right to development and promoting awareness about the content and importance of the right to development, including through information and educational activities".

or

In subparagraph (c), replace the words "human rights aspects" with the words "human development aspects".

or

Revise subparagraph (c) to read: "Furthering the understanding and development of methodologies to enhance the incorporation of the right to development in the activities of human rights bodies and organs".

Replace subparagraph (d) to read: "Contributing to the capability of the relevant United Nations bodies and organs to assist Member States, at their request, in building and enhancing national capacities in the area of right to development".

B. Research and analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a):

(a) After the word "women", add the words "and children";

(b) After the words "by HIV/AIDS", add the words "migrant workers".

Add a new accomplishment (c) to read "Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of all human rights, including the right to development".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), after the words "related intolerance", add the words "including strengthening the support to the mechanisms on those matters created by resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council and increasing the holding of seminars and workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly, the Council and the Commission on Human Rights, or in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner".

Add a new indicator (c) (i) to read: "An increased number of visitors to the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner".

Add a new indicator (c) (ii) to read: "The number of new publications of the Office of the High Commissioner as well as their distribution, and the assessment by users of their quality and usefulness".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.7

In subparagraph (a):

(a) After the word "strengthening", add the words "at the national and international levels";

(b) After the words "persons affected by HIV/AIDS" add the word "migrants".

In subparagraph (a), replace the words "the protection of persons belonging to minorities" with the words "the protection of women and children and of persons belonging to minorities".

Revise subparagraph (c) to read: "Wider support to the work of the mechanisms created to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to the implementation of the measures proposed by these Intergovernmental organs on these matters, as well as inclusion in advisory services and training to countries, upon request, of measures to be taken to this combat".

Subprogramme 2

Revise the objective of the Organization to read: "To support the United Nations human rights bodies and organs and to facilitate their deliberations by ensuring and enhancing their effective functioning".

Merge subprogrammes 2 and 4.

A new subprogramme should be created with the following objectives:

(i) To enhance the capacity of developing countries to accede to and implement international human rights instruments;

(ii) Raising awareness about international human rights framework through seminars, workshops and media campaigns in developing countries;

(iii) Training of administrative authorities in international human rights law and the deputation of concerned officials of developing countries in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(iv) Augmenting the technical capacity of developing countries through the provision of critical infrastructure and services (computers, software, databases) and the preparation of national training modules in human rights law.

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (c), add the words: "and the extent to which reports prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights were presented in a timely manner, in compliance with the six-week rule for the issuance of documentation, for consideration by organs dealing with human rights".

Renumber amended indicator (c) to read (c) (i) and add a new indicator (c) (ii) to read: "The quality and timeliness of services provided by the Office of the High Commissioner".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.8

In subparagraph (b), after the words "existing procedures", add the words "in consultation with States parties to human rights treaties".

In subparagraph (d), after the words "to reduce", add the words "as appropriate and in accordance with guidelines of the relevant intergovernmental organs".

Subprogramme 3

Incorporate subprogramme 4 into subprogramme 3.

Revise the objective of the Organization to read: "To assist countries, at their request, in strengthening national plans to promote and protect human rights at the country level".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d) with the following accomplishments:

(a) Provision of advisory services and technical and financial assistance, at the request of the State concerned and, where appropriate, the regional human rights organizations, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights

(b) Fulfilment of the mandates given to the Office of the High Commissioner in resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights to support human rights monitoring mechanisms, such as special rapporteurs and representatives and expert and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies

(c) Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of all human rights, including the right to development

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicators (a), (b), (c) and (d) with the following indicators:

(a) The number of requests from Member States and, where appropriate, from the regional human rights organizations, received and fulfilled by the Office of the High Commissioner for the provision of advisory services and technical and financial assistance with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights

(b) The number of seminars, workshops and training courses held or supported by the Office of the High Commissioner, and the number of persons trained, participants in seminars and workshops and fellowships granted, as well as data on their geographical distribution and the extent to which they contributed to the fulfilment of the objectives of the subprogramme

(c) The timeliness, significance and relevance of the advisory services and technical cooperation

Strategy

Paragraph 19.9

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "In the field activities, ensuring the efficiency of field missions and presences through the maintenance of contacts with Governments, appropriate sectors of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and others by supporting and developing such activities through the development of training programmes and materials for human rights field staff and training in

human rights for the appropriate components of other United Nations field operations."

Revise subparagraph (b) to read: "Providing advice and support to specific projects to promote respect for human rights, as well as education and training through technical cooperation programmes aimed at developing effective national human rights structures, human rights education programmes and comprehensive national plans of action. This assistance will be provided at the request of Member States through technical cooperation projects and, as appropriate, field offices."

In subparagraph (c), after the word "Strengthening", add the words "where appropriate".

(d) This subparagraph is related to subprogramme 4.

Add a new subparagraph (e) to read: "Raising awareness and promoting specialized knowledge about human rights through the organization of training courses, seminars and workshops, and the production of a wide range of educational, training and information material".

Subprogramme 4 (to be merged with subprogramme 3)

Revise the objective of the Organization to read: "To ensure the effective functioning of human rights monitoring mechanisms by assisting special rapporteurs and representatives, experts and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement

Delete all the accomplishments and indicators.

Strategy

Paragraph 19.10

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "Providing assistance to the special rapporteurs and representatives, experts and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies, including through the preparation of information regarding alleged violations and situations for review and the provision of support for missions and meetings".

In subparagraph (b):

(a) Replace the word "mandate" with the word "mandated";

(b) After the words "their capacity to report", add the words "as appropriate";

(c) At the end of the subparagraph, add the words "at the request of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights".

In subparagraph (d), delete the words "in particular among their partners".

Delete subparagraph (e).

Conclusions and recommendations

18. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly allocate Programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 to the Third Committee for its review and action, and for subsequent submission to the Fifth Committee for its consideration, in the context of the overall proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".**